



**Strategic & Spectrum Missions Advanced Resilient Trusted Systems (S²MARTS)
Request for Solutions (RFS)**

in support of

Drone Dominance Program – Phase 2.5 Mission C

Project No. 26-01

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A. OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

Project Title	Drone Dominance Program (DDP)
Project Sponsor	Office of the Secretary of War / Defense Innovation Unit
Contracting Activity	Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Crane Division
Questions Deadline	July 31, 2026, 12:00 PM US Eastern Time
Response Deadline	Aug 5, 2026, 12:00 PM US Eastern Time
Anticipated Project Budget	Total Program (Phases I – IV): \$1,100,000,000; Phase 2.5 Mission C: \$30,000,000 (Est.)
Resultant Award Type	Prototype Other Transaction Agreements (10 U.S.C. § 4022)
NSTXL Membership	NSTXL membership is not required to submit a response to this RFS. Membership will be required prior to any award.

Responses to the RFS will be considered for Phase 2.5 participation only.

B. PROTOTYPE PROJECT DETAIL

1. Authority

10 U.S.C. § 4022, “Authority of the Department of Defense to Carry Out Certain Prototype Projects”

2. Problem Statement and Program Background Information

Drones are reshaping the character of war. To meet this challenge, the Department of War (DoW) must provide ground combat forces with the tools needed to locate, close with, and destroy the enemy in close combat. While one-way attack (OWA) is critical on the battlefield, additional strike capability is required to support warfighters at low cost, at scale, and from a supply chain that is resilient.

The Drone Dominance Program (DDP) is launching Mission C for reusable bomber/dropper platforms in phase 2.5 (October 2026). DDP will award approximately \$32M in initial prototype orders utilizing 10 U.S.C. 4022 in Phase 2.5. Additional orders are planned in the subsequent phases. Like Mission A & B of Phase 2.0, this multi-phase plan is an advanced market commitment: the Department is posting quantities and prices up front and will award fixed price prototype deliveries with vendors whose systems meet/exceed the Gauntlet delivery requirements.

Mission C is organized around two stages: a vendor-operated bomber qualifier and military-operated bomber gauntlet to identify the most capable systems for scaling and fielding. The Gauntlet will be held approximately 48 hours following the qualifier which is currently planned to take place in October.

At the completion of the DDP, multiple vendors will have demonstrated the ability to produce capable, low-cost, secure supply-chain sUAS at scale, enabling Services to integrate these capabilities into future acquisition pathways. The DDP is relying on industry to innovate to complete battlefield missions, reduce unit costs and scale production of systems which adhere to the Drone Dominance Program Supply Chain Framework.

3. Phase 2.5 Mission Areas & Operational Parameters

The DDP procures prototype systems based on their proven ability to execute missions during Qualifier and Gauntlet events, instead of making acquisition decisions based entirely on paper requirements. Each phase includes a Gauntlet test event, run by the Test Resource Management Center (TRMC), and ends with delivery of sUAS via an Other Transaction – Prototype delivery order for the winners of the Gauntlet. Phase 2.5 is adding a third mission set:

Mission Area C: Reusable Long-Range Strike

Previous efforts focused on finding drones that performed OWA; Mission C focuses on Reusable Long-Range multi-payload strike. This enables striking targets from increased distances and lowering the cost per effect by reusing the platform. **Table 3-1** summarizes parameters of the new Mission Area C. While DDP does not specify a system size, the government assumes most systems will be 55lb Gross Takeoff Weight or smaller excluding payload weight. Vendors should note that evaluations will consider the performance of the entire system, including all durable system components like the payload release system, ground control equipment and any supporting assets, which will form the basis for later delivery requirements.

Table 3-1 Mission Objectives for Phase 2.5

	Mission Area C: Reusable Long-Range Strike
Primary Mission	Find, Fix, & Finish at extended ranges (>15km)
Target Set	Anti-personnel, light armor, anti-material, maritime surface or landing craft, and heavy armor
Mission Range	15-30KM at Mean Sea Level
Operational Environment	Strike targets located beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) including buildings, convoys, maritime landing craft, etc.
Packability	Platoon, man-packable preferred. Must fit on light duty combat vehicles.
Warhead Size	Multiple warheads with total payload $\geq 8\text{kg}$ commensurate with 60mm, 81mm mortars or other munitions typically found in Government inventory
	Common Mission Objectives
Target Engagement	Capable of striking single and multiple moving and stationary targets in succession
Operating Conditions	All weather (rain, wind, heat) and all-lighting (day, low-light, night) with a particular focus on Night Missions
Electromagnetic (EM) Environment	Operate in a "Dirty" Electro-Magnetic (EM) spectrum and be resilient to radio frequency (RF) jamming and communications/Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) denial
Lethality	All systems must be capable of delivering a payload. See Section 4 for full lethality requirements.

4. Payload Integration Effects Delivery and Targeting Integration

All UAS vendors competing in Phase 2.5 Mission C shall demonstrate an integrated inert payload delivery capability consisting of a payload release system, a targeting capability, and a modular architecture capable of supporting future payload and effects integration.

At a minimum, vendors shall demonstrate effects delivery capability for the following:

1. Ease and speed of safe payload integration
2. Secure payload retention during all phases of flight
3. Controlled release and release status of representative payloads
4. Status of Payload (i.e. safe state, safe separation timer, enabled state, armed state, displayed at the End User Device (EUD)).

5. Safe separation between aircraft and payload
6. Repeatable and reliable payload delivery performance
7. Delivery accuracy and precision against representative targets
8. Ability for stable hover over target

Representative inert payloads may be surrogate, or commercially available payloads that approximate the size, weight, and balance of operational effects. Live energetic payloads will not be allowed for Mission C. However, the government is interested in reviewing vendor designs for energetic payloads and Safe and Arm Devices (SAD).

Targeting Capability

Vendors shall demonstrate targeting capabilities designed to improve engagement effectiveness, increase delivery accuracy, and reduce operation cognitive workload during target prosecution. This shall include but not be limited to non-moving drone against non-moving target, non-moving drone against moving target and moving drone against moving target at various heights.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Pixel lock
- Object tracking
- Aided Target Recognition
- Aim-point stabilization
- Predictive impact point estimation
- Other operational-assist targeting technologies

The Government will evaluate the effectiveness of targeting capabilities based on their contribution to target acquisition, tracking, engagement accuracy, and reduction of operator workload

Future Effects Integration

Vendors shall consider and, where applicable, demonstrate how their platform supports integration of current and future payload delivery solutions. **The DDP anticipates adopting the Munition Air-Dropped Lethal Effects Tool (MALET) solution in Phase III and beyond. The DDP will be seeking progress towards MALET adoption from industry in Phase 2.5.**

Examples may include:

- Conventional munitions
- Purpose built air delivery effects
- Inert payloads
- Modular payload release systems
- The MALET
- Other Government, commercial or vendor-developed effects integration solutions

Platforms demonstrating compatibility with existing payload integration architectures, such as MALET or other Government solutions may be viewed favorably as they reduce integration timelines and support future operational flexibility.

MALET: An Army developed payload interface and fuzing solution that attaches to conventional or purpose-built munitions to enable safe carriage, release, arming, and employment from UAS. MALET provides common payload interface intended to reduce integration complexity, improve interoperability across platforms and payloads, and accelerate fielding of air-delivered systems.

Vendors interested in receiving Government technical data package (TDP) or interface contract document (ICD) can reach out to MAJ Zachary Bates at Zachary.h.bates2.mil@army.mil

Lethality is central to the DDP's mission. All sUAS vendors competing in Phase 2.5, are required to integrate an inert payload, either from a government source or an independently qualified alternative that meets government safety requirements. The inert payload shall replicate the live energetic variant in form factor, weight, center of gravity, mechanical interface, and electrical interface.

5. Phase 2.5 Competition: Process & Evaluation

Participation in Mission C is determined through a competitive, two-stage process designed to identify mature, mission capable systems that are ready for production. The process begins with a vendor operated qualifier. Vendors must submit one drone & Ground Control System (GCS) to DCMA 30 days prior to qualifier for Recognized Assessor teardown. To advance to the Gauntlet, vendors have to meet minimum gating criteria listed in Table 5-2. The military operated Gauntlet will follow within approximately 48 hours of the qualifier which may involve testing in mission-relevant scenarios. Both qualifier and Gauntlet will be held at the same location. Location will be announced in the future. The Mission C Qualifier/Gauntlet will be abbreviated compared to Phase II. The top performing vendors at Gauntlet 2.5 will receive orders for no less than 200 sets and a number of inert payloads per section 6.2.2.

Table 5-1 summarizes Mission C's two stage process. The government reserves the right to adjust the number of participants, awards, and allocations throughout the Phase 2.5 Competition.

Table 5-1. Stages of the Phase 2.5 Competition

	Qualifier	Gauntlet
Primary Goal	Screen minimum systems requirements	Identify Most Capable Systems
Prerequisite	Bomber G2.5 Vendor Application Acceptance	Invitation resulting from qualifier performance
Testing Materials	Bring a minimum of 6 sUAS systems and sufficient equipment including a minimum of 30 inert payloads for qualifier testing. The quantity of batteries per system shall be sufficient to conduct three missions at maximum endurance without recharging. In addition, vendors must submit one drone & GCS to DCMA 30 days prior to qualifier for Recognized Assessor teardown.	Systems from the Qualifier will be used for military operator training and gauntlet. Vendors must have a minimum of 6 fully functional sUAS, 2 sets of Durable system components (GCS, etc.) including 120 inert payloads to support training and execution. The quantity of batteries per system shall be sufficient to conduct three missions at maximum endurance without recharging. Systems used during Gauntlet that remain fully functional may be delivered to the government as part of the purchase from qualifier advancement.
Evaluation Method	Systems are evaluated in scripted test lanes with vendor pilots	Systems are evaluated in an operational scenario with warfighter pilots
Number of Advancing Vendors	Approximately 8 vendors	Approximately 3 vendors for prototype delivery award
Advancement	Invitation to Gauntlet. Purchase of 6 sUAS, 2 sets of durable system components (GCS, etc.) & 300 inert payloads (with visual indicator such as paint or color powder) for \$150K total. Purchase is separate from systems needed for Gauntlet participation.	Prototype Delivery order for a minimum of 200 sets, with 40 inert payloads per set (no paint/powder is required). See section 6.2 for set definition and delivery specifications.

Table 52 below lists the pass/fail gateway requirements and minimum mission thresholds that top performing vendor systems must meet to advance from the Qualifier phase to the Gauntlet. In order to attend the qualifier event, vendors must assert in the application that they believe their systems will meet the minimum gateway requirements described below. Vendors who arrive and are found to not meet these requirements or are found to be unsafe may be immediately dismissed from the event. All sUAS systems will be vendor-operated in the Qualifier. In addition to the pass/fail gates, each vendor's system will be evaluated through a series of test lanes that increase in difficulty, testing the drone's ability to accomplish the core objectives for the designated mission area. The participants will be scored and ranked per section 5.1.2 to determine which vendors move on to Military-operated testing at the Gauntlet.

Table 5-2. Pass/Fail Gate Requirements for Qualifier

Category	Pass/Fail Gateway Requirement for Qualifier
Required Capabilities	
Airworthiness	System must demonstrate safe and stable flight.
Integrated Inert Payload	System must be integrated with a payload release system and demonstrate safe carriage and release status. Controlled release, and separation of a representative inert payload as outlined in Section 4 and table 3-1. System must provide payload status (i.e. safe state, enabled state, armed state, triggered state) at End User Device (EUD).
Command Link	Systems must have a wireless command link solution. Acceptable solutions include but are not limited to RF, cellular (LTE), and satellite-based controls.
GPS	System must be able to navigate and support missions with or without the use of GPS.
Video Output for Viewing	The Ground Control Station must be capable of displaying live drone video feed on an external display through HDMI or other video interface, providing appropriate cabling. (A large display will be provided by the government for display purposes during evaluations.)
Supply Chain & Compliance	Drone and ground control equipment must be compliant with the Drone Dominance Supply Chain framework and will be verified by the DDP. Gauntlet 2.5 must meet or exceed Gauntlet II Supply Chain Framework standards.
Test Equipment – All test equipment is provided at vendor expense.	
sUAS	Vendors must bring a minimum of 6 sUAS. The government anticipates potential sUAS losses. Any surviving sUAS will be returned.
Durable System Components	Reusable equipment to operate the sUAS, including ground control system (GCS), comms infrastructure, operator interfaces, any supporting air assets (e.g., ISR/relay drones), etc.
Inert Munition	Sufficient inert payloads (preferably utilizing non-toxic paint, powder or other method that clearly identifies strike location) to conduct a minimum of 10 missions (ex. if vendor system has 2 payloads per drone, vendor should bring a minimum of 20 payloads).
Minimum Mission Threshold – Vendors that do not demonstrate minimum mission thresholds at the Gauntlet 2.5 will be dismissed from the event.	
Mission Area C	- System must demonstrate the ability to fly a minimum of 15KM** - Systems must carry at least 8kg (combined total weight) of inert payloads & at least 2 inert payloads simultaneously.

**Systems may want to include high altitude props, testing locations may be up to 6500 ft above sea level.

5.1 Mission C Gauntlet

The Gauntlet 2.5 event is designed to identify the most capable system for scaling and fielding. This event will be piloted by **trained warfighters**. The evaluation will focus on a system's total performance and suitability in the hands of an operator, not just its technical specifications. Emphasis will be on the systems' ability to **hit the various targets in both permissive and contested environments**.

Vendors who advance from the qualifier will be issued a \$150K prototype delivery order to deliver 6 sUAS, 2 sets of durable system components (GCS, etc.), common spares & 300 inert payloads. Delivery to occur within 90 of days of order. This order is separate from the vendor owned systems that will be used in the Gauntlet. Vendor may deliver systems used in the gauntlet to the government if they are still fully functional.

Immediately prior to Mission C Gauntlet, vendors will be responsible for training up to three warfighter teams (with approximately 2-3 operators per team) in 2 days, utilizing systems brought by the vendor. Training event will be held between qualifier and gauntlet and will use vendor owned equipment.

5.1.1 Gauntlet 2.5 Scenarios

The Mission C events will be dynamic scenario testing by military operators. Vendors will not know the full scope of the scenarios prior to Gauntlet 2.5 and should design their systems for the uncertainty of a combat environment. The vendors should not expect to be able to interact with warfighters during the scenarios that are military operated.

These scenarios are directly derived by the mission sets described in **Section 3** and will be tailored to each mission area.

5.1.2 Qualifier and Gauntlet 2.5 Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria will be based on a holistic assessment across a minimum of four categories, to include but not limited to: Qualifier/Gauntlet Performance, Military Operator Evaluation, Supply Chain Compliance, and Production Capabilities. The results will be posted on a public leaderboard at www.dronedominance.mil. The underlying government scoring methodology and internal calculations will not be shared.

Qualifier/Gauntlet Performance: This category focuses on the system's ability to execute its core mission: to find, fix, and finish a target. Performance in degraded RF and/or GNSS environments is paramount. The evaluation will heavily weight mission-oriented attributes like deployment speed, ease of operation, mission tempo, strike accuracy, operator cognitive load, portability, audible compressive range (drone noise), logistical burden for setup, etc.

Military Operator Evaluation: Structured feedback will be collected directly from the military operators. This feedback will include ease of use, both for setup and flight, military utility, and other factors. There will also be a focus on integration into warfighter's combat load; therefore, not just evaluating system performance but also packing/transport in a combat environment.

Supply Chain Compliance: Drone Dominance Supply Chain Framework Compliance is mandatory. Vendors must meet Phase 2 minimum requirements and exceeding those requirements will result in higher scores. It is consistent with the stated goal of DDP to scale the US sUAS supply chain over time, and it becomes more restrictive for each Phase. The Drone Dominance Supply Chain Framework is published at DroneDominance.mil.

Production Capabilities: Vendors will be evaluated on their ability to produce quality drones at scale. The evaluation may include production and manufacturing surveys, interviews, and site visits to production facilities conducted by Government inspection teams.

5.1.3 Gauntlet 2.5 Areas of Particular Interest

This section highlights some attributes that the Government will assess as strong indicators of an effective system. **To be clear, these attributes are not mandatory requirements.** A vendor does not need to incorporate all, or even multiple, of these attributes. Rather, demonstrating a high degree of maturity and reliability in even a single one of these areas may potentially be a key differentiator. Systems with advanced features are expected to achieve better results than simple first-person view (FPV) drones that are manual and rely on continuous operator input and manual piloting skill for all flight and mission tasks. **As bombers are reusable the government expects a higher level of reliability and capability compared to OWA systems.**

- **Advanced Target Engagement:** Features that speed up or improve the accuracy of the terminal engagement phase, such as robust pixel locking or effective automated target recognition (ATR). These features may improve a drone's ability to close kill chains at long distance in dynamic engagements.
- **Autonomous Behaviors:** The ability for the system to perform complex tasks with minimal operator input, especially in comms or GNSS denied environments. This includes capabilities like autonomous navigation to a search area, dynamic path planning around obstacles, or onboard logic that enables the drone to continue its mission after the command link is severed. These features can reduce the training burden and allow operators to focus on mission tasks rather than piloting. **Ability to accurately strike a target will be of particular emphasis.**

- **System Data Feeds & Interoperability:** Ground control equipment that supports real-time output of both mission video and system telemetry (e.g., Time-Space-Position Information (TSPI)) is preferred for test and evaluation purposes. More broadly, the Government values systems with open architecture and published Interface Control Documents (ICDs) that enable integration with other combat systems. Vendors that can demonstrate interoperability potential beyond their own ecosystem may be better positioned for future phases.

5.2 Future Phases

The DDP is designed to move fast. The Government is committed to building a lasting, capable domestic supply chain and sees industry as a partner in that effort. Each successive phase will increase in both order volume and mission requirements. **Due to their reusability, bombers will not be ordered at the same volumes as OWA, but this Phase 2.5 Mission C order is an initial commitment to industry for larger purchases in future phases.** The Government will monitor market conditions, engage with industry, and allow competitive forces to inform future pricing. The following information on upcoming phases is provided to help vendors plan. Because both the threat and the market move fast, details are subject to change.

- **Phase III** will shift from individual system performance to warfighter-led evaluation in unscripted, operationally realistic scenarios. The Government will provide a semi-persistent test environment which may include capabilities like GPS jamming and other counter UAS capabilities, focusing on capabilities that vendors cannot replicate independently. This environment is designed to help companies iterate and adapt their systems in weeks rather than months, accelerating the development cycle in direct response to an evolving threat. Phase III will require safe, live munitions integration for Mission C. Additional integration requirements will be provided in or before Phase III RFS release. In this way, Phase III will narrow the field to the most adaptable vendors. Phase III may introduce the need to link systems in the battlefield through capabilities, such as Android Team Awareness Kit (ATAK), Nett Warrior, and Marine Air-Ground Task Force Common Handheld, and Marine Air-Ground Tablet.
- **Phase IV** will place a premium on a vendor's ability to sustain rapid, continuous improvement alongside high-volume production. Vendors will be expected to demonstrate that they can iterate their systems at a responsible pace, responding to warfighter feedback and an evolving threat environment, without sacrificing production output. Companies that treat their product roadmap as fixed will find it difficult to remain competitive in this phase.

6. Phase 2.5 Prototype Awards & Deliverables

6.1 Post Gauntlet Prototype Delivery Orders

Based on final standings on the DDP Leaderboard, approximately three vendors will receive delivery orders. The Government reserves the right to adjust quantities if fewer than three vendors are selected. Vendors may elect to receive a smaller order than their ranking entitles them to, but no order will be made for fewer than 200 units. Vendors should only accept quantities they are confident they can deliver on time.

Table 6-1. Fixed Prices (Drones & Munitions)

Item	Price
Mission Area C – Reusable Long-Range Strike	\$20,000 Per sUAS
Mission Area C – Logistics Support Package	\$5,000 Per sUAS

Table 6-2. Projected Order Quantities

Mission Area C – Reusable Long-Range Strike	
System Ratio: 1:10 (Durable System Components to Drones)	
<u>Vendor Ranking</u>	<u>Prototype Quantities</u>
1st place	Up To 600
2nd place	Up To 400
3rd place	Up To 200
Total Prototype Orders for Phase 2.5	<u>Up to 1,200</u>

6.2 Delivery Specifications

A complete prototype delivery set consists of two components: the drone and supporting system hardware detailed in **Section 6.2.1**, and the logistics support package detailed in **Section 6.2.2**. Both must be delivered in accordance with the specifications below.

6.2.1 Drone & System Components

- **Bomber sUAS:** The total quantity of drones ordered from the vendor based on their final ranking in **Table 6-2**.
- **Durable System Components:** The reusable equipment required to operate the sUAS. This includes the Ground Control System (GCS), comms infrastructure, operator interfaces, and any supporting air assets (e.g., ISR or relay drones) that were required to pass the Gauntlet 2.5 event.
- **Logistics Support Package:** Vendors must provide a logistics support package containing sufficient spare components to achieve this mission rate assuming no operator induced failures(crashes).
 - The logistic support package to sUAS shall be delivered with each individual air system in a 1:1 ratio.
 - This will include propellers and any other high failure rate components as well as any parts with failure rates under 30 missions.
 - The logistic support package to sUAS shall be 40 inert payloads for each set. Payloads may be reusable, refillable is preferred.
 - Quantity of batteries per sUAS shall be sufficient to conduct one mission at maximum endurance without recharging.
- **Night Vision:** Night vision or low light capability is required.
- **Operator Training & Support:** Vendors must deliver comprehensive training materials including manuals, guides, and digital or video formats, that enable end users to safely and effectively operate and maintain the entire system, including the drone and training on warheads and lethality. Vendors are also required to provide Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for on-site technical support for two CONUS locations during unit fielding for approximately one week per location with approximately 20 students per training. The costs of these two sessions are included in the price of the drones and logistics packages. Additional training may be negotiated at time of prototype delivery order award. To ensure documentation remains current, vendors must deliver an updated training and maintenance package reflecting any design changes within a phase that impact system operation or field maintenance.

- **Battery Shipping/storage:** Batteries must be charged to no more than 30% state of charge (SOC) when shipped/stored. Battery chargers must have the capability to dissipate battery levels to 30% or less in a safe and quick manner.

6.2.2 Logistics Support package

- Each bomber is expected to fly a minimum of 30 missions with a preference of achieving 150 missions before loss.
 - Vendors must deliver one logistics package per sUAS system delivered at the listed price.
 - Vendors may be issued additional contracts to purchase additional logistics packages as required by the government at the same price.

6.3 Delivery Schedule & Payment Structure

Drone deliveries are structured in two equal batches out of Gauntlet 2.5. Early delivery is encouraged for both.

- Each component and system is expected to be designed, manufactured and inspected with effective quality systems, thus defect free. Product(s) found defective are subject to replacement at no cost to the government.
- Batch 1: First 50% of total bomber drone order due NLT 2.5 months after prototype delivery order. Must include corresponding logistics packages.
- Batch 2: Second 50% of total bomber drone order and logistics packages due NLT 5 months after prototype delivery order.

6.4 Late Penalties

Delivery performance for both drones and logistics packages will be evaluated against the following schedule:

- On time: Full payment
- Late (beyond 2.5 months for first 50% or beyond 5 months for second 50%): The Government reserves the right to cancel any remaining deliveries

Late or cancelled deliveries may affect future Phase award decisions.

6.5 Compliance & Post-Award Opportunities

- **Supply Chain Compliance:** All items specified in **Section 6.2** are required to be compliant with the Drone Dominance Supply Chain Framework. Gauntlet 2.5 must meet or exceed Gauntlet 2 Supply Chain Framework standards. Failure to meet these requirements may result in the rejection of the prototype delivery and forfeiture of payment. The Drone Dominance Supply Chain Framework is on DroneDominance.mil.
- **Production Follow-On:** Successful completion of a prototype delivery order under this OTA may allow the DoW to issue a follow-on production contract or other transaction without further competition. This transition may occur for a specific capability before the conclusion of all DDP phases.

7. Submission Process

7.1 Overview

Vendors interested in participating in DDP Phase Mission C must submit a completed application packet (Vendor Application Attachment) with the below Supporting Attachments via NSTXL. The application is designed to confirm that vendors have read and understand the requirements of this RFS, demonstrate minimum production readiness, and provide the Government with the information needed to assess eligibility prior to Qualifier Event. Submission of an application does not guarantee participation in the

Qualifier Event. Any information provided as part of the Application process necessary to execute the testing requirements herein will not be protected as source selection material and may be shared with the appropriate government agencies and their support contractors. This may include but not limited to TRMC, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), associated frequency managers, and test range personnel. Proprietary information will be protected in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Information determined to be source selection sensitive will be protected in accordance with the Procurement Integrity Act. The government reserves the right to follow up with vendors who submit an application for additional information and clarification. The government may also arrange a follow-up virtual interview to determine qualifier eligibility.

Supporting Attachments:

- B. Mandatory Section 889 Representation
- C. DD Form 2345 Instructions
- D. Bomber G2.5 Vendor Application
- E. Required Application Attachments (Section 7.2)

7.2 Required Proposal Attachments

The following attachments must be submitted with completed Bomber G2.5 Vendor Application. For convenience, the application includes a required attachment checklist. Incomplete packets may not be reviewed. Additional information may be required to participate in the Qualifying stage or Gauntlet 2.5. The Government will follow up with vendors as necessary. The attachments are as follows:

- Photo of the sUAS, ground control station, and other equipment
- Short video (max 1 minute, MP4 format, 150MB max) showing both the view from the targeting system/GCS/drone as well as the system striking the same target.
- Work orders or purchase orders demonstrating production activity relative to drones, components or their subsystems within the past 12 months. Specifically list any Department of War orders and which contracting offices issued them.
- Describe where and how the system has been previously used and tested and at what scale. Has it been used in Ukraine or other combat areas?
- Photographs of Production Facilities (6 minimum) covering: production order, assembly area, quality control / inspection area, component storage / inventory area, testing area, shipping & logistics area
- Bill of Materials (BOM) – DCMA BOM Template
- FOCI Data Sheet
- Spectrum Paperwork: DD1494 or Part 15 Spectrum Template, depending on spectrum requests
- Quality certifications such as ISO9001, AS9100, other
- Certificate of Insurance: Proof of liability insurance coverage for Qualifiers participation
- Covered Telecommunications Equipment Compliance Certification (signed)

7.3 Application Structure

The application (Bomber G2.5 Vendor Application) consists of eight parts:

- **Part A – Company Identification:** Basic company information (Company Name, Address, CAGE Code, Contact info, etc.) and eligibility basis under 10 U.S.C. § 4022.
- **Part B – Mission Area Vendor Acknowledgement:** Selection of Mission Area C (Reusable Long Range Strike) and vendor acknowledgment of minimum performance requirements, pricing, and delivery structure.
- **Part C – System Description:** Informational overview of the offered sUAS, Inert Payload, and command link. This section will not be evaluated but will be used to familiarize the test team with vendor systems prior to the Qualifier event, enabling more efficient test planning and execution. This section also covers required paperwork to test.
- **Part D – Production Screener:** Assertions and production history demonstrating that the vendor has an active production facility, has fulfilled meaningful production orders, can provide quality products and can meet the delivery requirements of this program.
- **Part E – Supply Chain Compliance:** Assertions confirming supply chain compliance, covered telecommunications equipment, battery and motor sourcing, and accuracy of the submitted Bill of Materials.
- **Part F – Required Attachments:** Checklist of all required documentation that must be submitted with the application. See **Section 7.2.**
- **Part G – Application Signature:** Signed acknowledgement by a company representative that all information provided is accurate, complete, and submitted in good faith.

7.4 Submission Instructions

Vendors must submit their completed application packet through the NSTXL portal no later than the Response Deadline listed in the Opportunity Overview. Late submissions may not be reviewed.

- Direct Link: [NSTXL.org/opportunity/drone-dominance](https://nstdlib.org/opportunity/drone-dominance)
- Program Website: DroneDominance.mil

Vendor may submit a maximum of two applications for mission area C.

7.5 Review and Notification

All submitted applications will be reviewed for completeness and eligibility. Vendors will be notified of their proposal status (accepted or rejected) no later than four weeks of the submission deadline. An accepted application means the vendor is invited to participate in Qualifier and does not constitute a guarantee of prototype delivery order. Rejected applications may receive a high-level explanation of why the application was not accepted. Debriefings will not be provided.

The Government reserves the right to conduct follow-up activities to verify the content of submitted applications, including direct meetings with vendors and contact with suppliers or manufacturers identified in the application.

7.6 Questions

Questions must be submitted no later than the Questions Deadline listed in the Opportunity Overview. Questions submitted after this deadline will not be answered.

Questions should be submitted at: [NSTXL.org/opportunity/drone-dominance](https://nstdlib.org/opportunity/drone-dominance)

Answers to submitted questions will be posted publicly on the NSTXL Opportunities page. Vendors are encouraged to monitor both sites for updates. No answers will be provided via direct communication.

C. SECURITY INFORMATION & RESTRICTIONS

Eligibility and compliance requirements for participation are as follows:

- Open to companies based in the U.S. or U.S. Allied Nations. Preference goes to companies with the ability to manufacture in the U.S. using U.S. made components and materials.
- A DD Form 2345 is required prior to prototype award. Instructions related to the DD Form 2345 are included for information purposes. This form is not required for the Phase 2.5 Qualifier.
- By submitting a response, respondents shall certify whether covered telecommunications equipment or services will or will not be included as a part of its offered products or services to the Government in the performance of this effort.
- Covered Telecommunications Equipment Compliance Certification includes additional details regarding covered telecommunications equipment compliances, which must be signed and returned with any submissions. This form is one of the required forms in the Phase 2.5 Qualifier Vendor Application.

What is included under “covered telecommunications equipment or services”?

- ✓ Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
- ✓ For the purpose of public safety, security of Government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
- ✓ Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment; or
- ✓ Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.

All respondents/prospective performers must be compliant with the following:

- (a) *DoDI 8582.01, “Security of Unclassified DoD Information on Non-DoD Information Systems” and DoDI 5200.48, “Controlled Unclassified Information.”*
- (b) *Research findings and technology developments arising from the resulting proposed solution may constitute a significant enhancement to the national defense and to the economic vitality of the United States. As such, in the conduct of all work related to this effort, the selected performer must comply strictly with the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (22 C.F.R. §§ 120-130), the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (Part 117 of Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations) and the Export Administration Regulations (15 C.F.R. §§ 730-774).*
- (c) *DFARS 252.204-7025 Notice of Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Level Requirements (NOV 2025), DFARS 252.204-7021 Contractor Compliance with the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Level Requirements, and FAR 52.204-21 Basic Safeguarding of Covered Contractor Information Systems.*

DFARS 252.204-7025 - NOTICE OF CYBERSECURITY MATURITY MODEL CERTIFICATION LEVEL REQUIREMENTS (NOV 2025)

(a) *Definitions. As used in this provision, “controlled unclassified information (CUI),” “current,” “Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) status,” “Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification unique identifier (CMMC UID),” “Federal contract information (FCI),” and “plan of action and milestones” have the meaning given in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement 252.204-7021, Contractor Compliance With the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Level Requirements, clause of this solicitation.*

*(b)(1) Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) level. The CMMC level required by this solicitation is: CMMC Level 1 (Self). The CMMC level required for prototype delivery award is: **CMMC Level 2 (Self)**. This CMMC level, or higher (see 32 CFR part 170), is required prior to award for each contractor information system that will process, store, or transmit Federal contract information (FCI) or controlled unclassified information (CUI) during performance of the contract.*

(b)(2) The Offeror will not be eligible for award of a contract, task order, or delivery order resulting from this solicitation if the Offeror does not have, for each of the contractor information systems that will process, store, or transmit FCI or CUI and that will be used in performance of a contract resulting from this solicitation—

(i) The current CMMC status entered in the Supplier Performance Risk System (SPRS) (<https://piee.eb.mil>) at the CMMC level required by paragraph (b)(1) of this provision; and

(ii) A current affirmation of continuous compliance with the security requirements identified at 32 CFR part 170 in SPRS.

(c) Plan of action and milestones. If the Offeror has a CMMC Status of Conditional, the Offeror shall successfully close out a valid plan of action and milestones (32 CFR 170.21) to achieve a CMMC Status of Final.

(d) CMMC unique identifiers. The Offeror shall provide, in the proposal, the CMMC unique identifier(s) (CMMC UIDs) issued by SPRS for each contractor information system that will process, store, or transmit FCI or CUI during performance of a contract, task order, or delivery order resulting from this solicitation. The Offeror also shall update the list when new CMMC UIDs are generated in SPRS. The CMMC UIDs are provided in SPRS after the Offeror enters the results of self-assessment(s) for each such information system.

D. REQUIRED LEVEL OF DATA RIGHTS

The Government will maintain limited rights to all technical data generated under this effort, as defined below.

Limited Rights: The rights to use, modify, reproduce, release, perform, display, or disclose technical data, in whole or in part, within the Government. The Government may not, without the written permission of the party asserting limited rights, release or disclose the technical data outside the Government, use the technical data for manufacture, or authorize the technical data to be used by another party, except under the following conditions:

(a) The reproduction, release, disclosure, or use is necessary for emergency repair and overhaul; or

(b) The release or disclosure is made to:

- A covered Government support contractor in performance of its covered Government support contract; or*
- A foreign government, or technical data other than detailed manufacturing or process data, when use is in the interest of the Government and required for evaluation or informational purposes*

(c) The recipient is subject to a prohibition on further reproduction, release, disclosure, or use of the technical data; and

(d) The contractor asserting the restriction is notified of such reproduction, release, disclosure, or use.

Exceptions to the limited rights language may result in rejection of an application.

E. SOLUTION REVIEW & ASSESSMENT

Following the initial application stage, advancement through each stage of this Phase is determined by demonstrated performance against the gates and criteria defined in **Section 5**. The Government will award prototype delivery orders, via NSTXL, to the respondents whose solutions are assessed to be most advantageous to the Government when all factors are considered. The Government reserves the right to award to a respondent that does not meet all objectives of the RFS and reserves the right to reject a submission deemed incomplete or that does not clearly provide the requested information.

F. ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

- Eligibility Requirement: In order to be eligible for award under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 4022, respondents must meet one of the following conditions:
 - There is at least one nontraditional defense contractor or nonprofit research institution participating to a significant extent in the prototype project.
 - All significant participants in the transaction other than the Federal Government are small businesses (including small businesses participating in a program described under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638)) or nontraditional defense contractors.
 - At least one third of the total cost of the prototype project is to be paid out of funds provided by sources other than the Federal Government.
- What is a nontraditional defense contractor?
 - An entity that is not currently performing and has not performed, for at least the one-year period preceding the solicitation of sources by the Department of Defense for the procurement or transaction, any contract or subcontract for the Department of Defense that is subject to full coverage under the cost accounting standards (CAS).
- The United States Navy, specifically Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division, maintains release authority on any and all publications or press releases related to this prototype project.
- Unsuccessful respondents will be notified by NSTXL, however, debriefings for this project will not be provided.
- Certain types of information submitted during the RFS and award process of an OT are exempt from disclosure requirements of 5 U.S.C. §552 (the Freedom of Information Act or FOIA). It is recommended that respondents mark business plans and technical information that are to be protected from FOIA disclosure with a legend identifying the documents as being submitted on a business confidential basis.
- No classified data shall be submitted within the proposal. To the extent that the project involves DoD controlled unclassified information, respondents must comply with DoDI 8582.01 Security of Non-DoD Information Systems Processing Unclassified Nonpublic DoD Information and DoDI 5200.48 Controlled Unclassified Information. Respondents must report any cyber incidents that affect controlled unclassified information directly to DoD at <https://dibnet.dod.mil>.
- This is to advise that non-Government advisors will assist in the evaluation. The use of non-Government advisors will be strictly controlled. Non-Government advisors will be required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) prior to working on the effort. Agreements Officer will review NDAs for conflict prior to allowing access to source selection information. All non-Government advisors will only have access to the information corresponding to their area(s) of expertise. The companies identified herein have agreed to not engage in the manufacture or production of hardware/services/research and development that is related to this effort, and to refrain from disclosing proprietary information to unauthorized personnel.
 - The following companies will have non-Government personnel advising:

KBR, Inc. CAGE: 7NUQ6
601 Jefferson ST Ste 3400
Houston, TX 77002

Scientific Research Corporation CAGE: 0D5A6
2300 Windy Ridge Pkwy STE 400S
Atlanta, GA 30339

- The following companies will be assisting with data collection at the Phase 2.5 Gauntlet:

Covan Group, LLC CAGE: 7DPS4
1127 International Parkway RM 281
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406

Revenant Technologies Inc. CAGE: 15F98
8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 1350
Vienna, Virginia 22182

- There may be non-Government Recognized Assessors throughout the Phase 2.5 Gauntlet for those selected for participation to assist in component source verification.

G. Definitions

- Inert / Dummy Payload: Weight commensurate to the total weight of the interface and the same center of gravity as the training payload/lethal payload. For the Qualifier and Gauntlet test, this should include a visual indication (e.g. non-toxic paint or powder) of impact.
- Munition Interface: Standardized mechanical, electrical, and logical interface that enables integration and communication of payloads with compatible drones (Eg. MALET or another variant)
- Safe and Arm/Fuzing Device: Subsystem that prevents inadvertent initiation, controls the transition from a safe condition to an armed condition, and initiates the warhead only under defined conditions. This includes electronic, electro-mechanical, and integrated safe-and-arm fuze implementations.
- Training Payload: Safe and Arm/Fuzing Device (Eg. ESAD, ESAM, EMSAD etc.), training device (non-lethal) and interface. Training payload must match the total weight and center of gravity as the lethal payload. Training payload must simulate ESAD/EMSAD behavior without producing explosive effects.